

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

High flying “Bears” too strong for “Thunder”

Men’s Division Three North
Sussex “Bears” 81 – 59 Northants “Thunder”

After a three hour drive to Worthing the Northants senior men struggled at the start of their clash against high flying Sussex “Bears”. “Thunder” moved the ball well to create open shots but they missed a number of shots they would normally have been expected to convert and found themselves trailing by 8 points to 19 after the first period of play.

“Thunder” were seriously undersized which had allowed “Bears” to score from a number of ‘put backs’ and this pattern continued in the second quarter during which time the home side extended their lead to 44-23.

The eight “Thunder” players were battling hard against a quality team and as soon as “Bears” introduced bench players into the game “Thunder” were able to gain the advantage. “Bears” edged the third quarter 21-15 but “Thunder” were able to close the game on a positive note winning the final quarter 21-16. The Northants team will be hoping to take that positive into Saturday’s game against Southwark “Pride”, a team that lies just one place above them in South Conference table.

In the loss against “Bears”, the “Thunder” scoring was led by Matt Yates with 18 points, good support coming from Jacob Holt and Adam Thomas with 9 and 8 points respectively. The quality of the Sussex team was indicated when they won the National Trophy Final the very next day

Short handed Junior Men go down against “Albion”

Junior Men’s East Midlands Conference
West Bromwich “Albion” 71 – 48 Northants “Thunder”

A combination of non-availability and injuries, meant that the Northants “Thunder” Junior Men travelled to West Bromwich seriously short-handed. This meant the Northants boys faced a tremendous uphill task against a full strength “Albion” team.

The home side showed no mercy hitting “Thunder” with an aggressive and very active full court press which forced numerous “Thunder” turn-overs and easy scores for “Albion”. With so many points coming from transition, the “Thunder” players were guilty of being too conscious of not fouling out of the game as they were outscored 17-8. The carnage continued in the second quarter and by half time the home side had extended their lead to 35-17.

“Thunder” had been employing a zone defence and this improved considerably in the second half with a lot of close to the basket scores prevented by excellent defensive play from Ed Wallhead while David Nieva made a number of steals but “Albion” countered by knocking down a number of shots from the deep perimeter. The game opened up in the final quarter as the home side began to make some mistakes and turn the ball over in advanced positions, but despite matching the scores in the final quarter, the deficit was far too big for “Thunder” to overcome.

After a valiant effort by “Thunder” four players, Dave Nieva, Mykolas Klimavisius, Ayo Oluyede and Ed Wallhead all scored in double figures.

(Written by Ayo Oluyede)

Strong second quarter gives “Titans” Under 14 Girls local bragging rights

Under 14 Girls East Conference

N.E.B.C. “Titans”

74 – 62

Northants “Lightning”

Northamptonshire “Titans” Under 14 Girls gained local bragging rights after recording a 12 points victory over “Lightning”. The game was a tight affair for three of the four periods of play but “Lightning” were ‘blown away’ 8-21 in the second quarter.

“Lightning” were handicapped by the absence of leading rebounder Sade Chambers who arrived late for the game and was not allowed to participate. Without her services “Lightning” struggled to match up with “Titan’s” Tigan Opongntim who enjoyed a field day close to basket.

In the disappointing loss “Lightning’s” scoring was led by Dina Kosnikovskis who netted 31 personal points. Lucy Needham with 15 points was the only other “Lighting” player who was able to score in double figures but Coach Janis Kosnikovska was pleased with the way his players rallied to outscore “Titans” 38-32 in the second half.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 25th February

9-30am to 11.00am

Junior “Ballers”

11.30am

Under 14 Boys versus City of Birmingham

1.30pm

Under 16 Boys versus Leicester “Dynamite”

3.30pm

Junior Men versus Nottingham “Hoods”

These games will be played at the Northamptonshire Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Senior Men travel to Southwark “Pride

Under 14 Girls travel to Ipswich “Bobcats”

Under 16 Boys Central Venue League

Sunday 26th February

Under 16 Boys travel to Notts Nova

For further information contact: **John Collins on 07801 533 151**